

Frats mis-represented

Regarding a recent article entitled "Frat Fun" (*Gateway*, Oct. 16/79), I would like to make the following comments.

Admittedly there is a certain amount of mystique (sic) which surrounds fraternities on the University of Alberta campus, simply do (sic) to the fact that a very low percentage of the student population is involved in Greek-Letter Fraternities, and thus, know little about them. This situation is unlike that of the universities and colleges of the United States, where modern fraternities have their roots. At many large American universities, fraternities are the main source of student housing and up to 85% of the student population became actively involved in fraternity life.

At the University of Alberta, however, being a so-called "commuter campus" things are a little different, and understandably, the average student has little or no knowledge of what fraternities *actually* are, and the functions they perform. For this reason, fraternities have been in the past and will be in the future, targets of much unfounded criticism and abuse.

As Mr. Lear (whoever (sic) he is) pointed out in his article, movies such as *Animal House* have created a "distorted view of fraternities." This being the case, I would then suggest that it be the mandate of a responsible students newspaper to help clear up this distortion and present the student population with the actual facts.

I hope that Mr. Lear was not too inconvenienced, spending I would estimate, at least five minutes researching and writing his lengthy and in-depth article. Let's get serious! At least you could have gotten the number of fraternities on campus and their names correct!

May I suggest, in the name of responsible journalism, that if your intent is to publish a factual, informative article — make it that — factual and informative. The article published did not even get the basic facts right, let alone present the information necessary to do justice to the subject matter. Rather than clearing up the myths (sic) and misconceptions of fraternities, your article served to broaden them.

In future, I suggest that if your paper intends to publish articles such as this, the proper research should be pursued. If you are unable to find the relevant facts, please don't hesitate to contact myself (sic) or any of the other more than 600 fraternity members on campus, who would I'm sure, be more than happy to help you out.

Bernie Williams
President
Kappa Sigma Fraternity

Gateway sucks

I have given up on you guys. Obviously, I cannot persuade you to democratize your paper. I have continually pointed out that your leftist drivel does not represent the majority of students on this campus, yet you persist in wasting editorial space on issues like nuclear energy, federal and provincial politics, and now your latest escapades, South African apartheid.

Look, that's important, but not to students. I suggest that we boycott your paper until it falls into line with what we are interested in.

Charles Farley
Commerce II



Quixote

by David Marples

In today's world, we encounter innumerable cases of maltreatment of minority groups by national governments. Also, we read of sordid violations of human rights in the countries of Latin America, Eastern Europe and others. In this respect, Canada prides itself on being a nation of justice and compassion, guaranteeing equal rights for all citizens. This claim is unfortunately, not well founded. Canada is also guilty of neglecting the fundamental rights of its oldest and most widely-dispersed people, the native Indians.

Although the native people constitute only a small minority of Canada's total population, they inhabit approximately forty per cent of the nation's territory and make up a majority of the population in the Northwest Territories. Here, the Dene Nation and the Inuit reside on lands which demand a rare degree of adaptability and hunting skill. Also in the north are the Yukon Indians and the Nishga of Northern British Columbia, living under similar conditions. These areas have always been populated by the natives. Only in the past twenty years has the search for natural resources led to white intrusion.

Southern demands on these native societies have resulted in unremitting hardship for the latter. In the case of the Dene, the peace treaties of 1899 and 1921 were interpreted to signify the secession of these territories to the Federal Government. Secondly, the insatiable appetite of multinational companies for gobbling up the natural resources of these areas threatens to destroy the very existence of the native people. Although the

Berger Inquiry managed to hold off the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, it represents but a temporary set-back for the planners and a brief respite for the Dene nation.

Further, the decline of native society has been accelerated by the practice of imposing the dominant alien culture upon them. For example, the introduction of welfare payments shattered the traditional Indian conception that problems could be solved communally and placed the onus on the individuals. The chronic problem of native alcoholism requires little explanation. It should however be pointed out that the Indians never asked to be given alcohol, which again is a symptom of white domination. Death rates on the reserves are twice as high as in the rest of Canada, making eventual extinction a definite possibility.

What are the native people asking for? Their requests are meagre: to be able to live off the lands they have occupied from time immemorial and to pass them on to their children after them. To those who consider these wishes contrary to the interests of technology and progress, it should be pointed out that this is a way of life which will flourish long after the supplies of oil and natural gas have been exhausted. One wonders at the logic of an outlook which endeavours to destroy a society, centuries old in order to provide two decades of wealth to an already prosperous southern elite.

The native communities are alive to the dangers they face. The past few years have seen the formation of organized groups such as the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Council for Yukon Indians and the Indian Brotherhood of the NWT. In 1975, the Inuit issued their "Agreement-in-Principle" concerning ownership of the land and presented it to the Federal Government in February 1976. The Dene Declaration of October 1976 was a succinct espousal of the Dene's right to self-determination. The problems remain however and the Federal Government must bear much of the responsibility for this.

Neither Trudeau nor Clark have shown any willingness to face the question of native rights. Indeed the new prime minister made the incredible assertion that the questions of land claims and northern development are not connected. Perhaps this apparent naivety conceals a cynical and traditional governmental disregard for native claims to special treatment. How else does one explain the fact that the Inuit, the Dene and other groups have lost their rights over their lands, have become colonized and subjected to the whims of profit-seeking power groups who show not the slightest concern for native interests?

Sexist headlines

The letter written by Bonnie Oxamitny in your September 27 issue is ridiculed by the headline written for it. And in a sexist way.

Girls become women when they pass puberty, which they presumably have done by the time they reach university. Even a woman with Ms. Oxamitny's

lack of enlightenment uses the word "women" in her letter.

A non-sexist student newspaper can do no less.

Peter Menyasz and Maureen Semchuk,

Western Region Canadian University Press (WRCUP) human rights co-ordinators

OOOOPS!

We blew it again. An article in last Thursday's *Gateway* was erroneously titled "Sagaris to Cuba". As the news story pointed out, FAS executive officer Lake Sagaris is going to Chile, not Cuba. We apologize to Lake Sagaris, and hope she has a successful Chilean expedition!

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject (please listen!). Letters **must** be signed (this includes Charlie Farlie),

LETTERS

and should include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters **must** be typed. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length.

